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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/616,614

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Nandakishore R. Kushalnagar

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EXAMINER

MUHAMMAD, KHALIF R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3685

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

09/08/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/616,614	KUSHALNAGAR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KHALIF MUHAMMAD	3685	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 May 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 26 and 27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18, 26 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Claims 1-18, 26 and 27 have been examined and rejected.
2. Claims 19-25 have been canceled.

Response to Arguments/Amendments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 05/27/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
4. Referring to the amendment in claim 1, *...the digital media content to be played.....in a local area network...*, the description of the content is considered nonfunctional descriptive material and it has been held that where the content is not functionally related to the substrate, the content will not distinguish the invention (*In re Gulack*, 217 USPQ 401 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *In re Ngai*, 70 USPQ2d (Fed. Cir. 2004), *In re Lowry*, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.01 II)
5. Referring to the amendment in claim 1, the language *...to be played on one or more media....* does not necessarily happen and it has been held that language that suggest or makes optional but does not require steps to be performed or does not limit a claim to a particular structure does not limit the scope of a claim or claim limitation (MPEP §2106 II C)

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6. It is the applicant's position that Ginter does not teach ...*responsive to the digital media content being encrypted, obtaining a license from a license server to decrypt the digital media content, wherein access to the license is based on a plurality of usage rules, wherein a local license server issues the license to the one or more rendering devices according to the usage rules of the license, and wherein the digital media content is capable of being shared amongst the rendering device.* However the word *responsive* is broad enough to be interpreted to mean “as a reaction” of the digital media being encrypted and since there isn't a prior “encrypting” step it has been held that actions that may or may not be done is indefinite and does not distinguish the claim from the prior art. (*MPEP §2106 II C; In re Collier, 158 USPQ 266 (CCPA 1968)*).
7. Referring to claims 1 and 10 the amended *language wherein a local license server issues the license to the one or more rendering devices according to the usage rules of the license, and wherein the digital media content is capable of being shared amongst the rendering devices;* is an expressed result and does not further limit the scope of the claim. (*MPEP §2106 II C*)
8. With respect to claims 26 and 27, Ginter does not specifically disclose wherein the license is received via a secure out of band transfer. On the other hand Ginter discloses a PERC (license) being encrypted(fig 67col 218 lines 1-11) and being sent However, receiving the license via a secure out of band transfer is not specifically disclosed by Ginter however Ginter mentions providing reports to outside participants and it would be a predictable result to provide any type of

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report/information securely to outside participants. (*Ex parte Smith*, 83 USPQ2d 1509 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 2007))

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

10. Claims 1 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: encrypting the digital media content.

11. Claims 2-9, 11-18, 26 and 27 are rejected as each depends from either claims 1 or 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
States.

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13. Claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Ginter (US 5892 900).

14. With respect to claims 1, 26 and 27 Ginter discloses a method for managing digital rights comprising:

- retrieving digital media content from a content server over a network connection, the digital media content to be played on one or more media rendering devices in a local area network (LAN); and (column 314 lines 1-23; Fig. 78)
- responsive to the digital media content being encrypted, obtaining a license from a license server to decrypt the digital media content, wherein access to the license is based on a plurality of usage rules, wherein a local license server issues the license to the one or more rendering devices according to the usage rules of the license, and wherein the digital media content is capable of being shared amongst the rendering devices; (column 158 lines 58-65; column 314 lines 1-23; Fig. 78)

Ginter discloses the method being responsive to a request for the license adhering to the access rules (column 55 lines 53-56). However, receiving the license via a secure out of band transfer is not specifically disclosed by Ginter however Ginter mentions providing reports to outside participants and it would be a predictable result to provide any type of report/information securely to outside participants. (*Ex parte Smith*, 83 USPQ2d 1509 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 2007))

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15. With respect to claims 2 and 11 Ginter discloses the method of claim 1, wherein obtaining a license from a license server to decrypt the digital media content comprises:

- extracting meta data from the selected digital content, the meta data including a key identification and a license URI, the key identification for identifying the license and the license URI for identifying where the license can be found; (column 55 lines 1-11)
- enabling a local license server within the LAN to obtain the license to play the digital media content; (column 55 lines 1-11)
- and establishing a secure connection to the local license server to request the license; (abstract)
- wherein the local license server determines whether the request for the license adheres to the usage rules, wherein the usage rules are based on the terms of the license. (column 55 lines 1-11)

13. With respect to claims 6 and 15, Ginter discloses the method of claim 1, wherein

- access rules include at least one of a number of times the selected digital media item is to be played, a number of media rendering devices the selected digital media item may be played on at one time,(column 58 lines 60-67)
- an expiration of the license; (column 211 lines 1-6)

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- and a length of time a user may play the selected digital media item. (Column 54 lines 33-45)

14. With respect to claim 7 and 16 Ginter discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the access rules include personal owner rules regarding playing the selected digital media item, wherein personal owner rules include at least one of an indication of who can play the digital media content, an indication of when the digital media content can be played, and an indication as to the number of times the digital media content can be played by certain individuals. (Column 54 lines 33-45)

15. With respect to claim 8 and 17 Ginter discloses the method of claim 1, wherein obtaining the license to decrypt the media content comprises:

- checking a local license server using a key identification acquired from the digital media content to see if the license is available from the local license server; (figs. 17-20; column 120 lines 61-67; column/line 133/10-134/10; column/line 155/38-156/15; column/line 214/15-215/30)
- if the license is available at the local license server, obtaining a location URI for the license to enable retrieval of the license from the local license server; (figs. 17-20; column 120 lines 61-67; column/line 133/10-134/10; column/line 155/38-156/15; column/line 214/15-215/30)

- and if the license is not available at the local license server, enabling the local license server to retrieve the license from a license server in a wide area network using the key identification and a license URI acquired from the digital media content and the location URI indicating where the license can be found on the local license server after the license is retrieved from the license server. (figs. 17-20; column 120 lines 61-67; column/line 133/10-134/10; column/line 155/38-156/15; column/line 214/15-215/30)

16. With respect to claim 9 and 18 Ginter discloses the method of claim 1, wherein prior to retrieving digital media content from the content server, the method further comprising receiving a Universal Resource Identifier (URI) identifying a location for the digital media content the URI is obtained from a home media server, the home media server comprising a plurality of URIs for digital media items used by the LAN. (column 314 lines 1-23; Fig. 78)

With respect to claim 10 Ginter discloses an article comprising:

- a storage medium having a plurality of machine accessible instructions, (column 60 lines 56-67; column 61 lines 1-34; fig. 7)
- wherein when the instructions are executed by a processor, (column 60 lines 56-67; column 61 lines 1-34; fig. 7)

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- the instructions provide for retrieving the digital media content from a content server over a network connection, the digital media content to be played on one or more media rendering devices in a local area network (LAN); (column 60 lines 56-67; column 61 lines 1-34; fig. 7)
- responsive to the digital media content being encrypted, obtaining a license to decrypt the selected media item, (column 158 lines 58-65; column 314 lines 1-23; Fig. 78)

17. Claims 3-5 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter (US 5892 900) in view of Fransdonk (US 20050066353)

18. With respect to claims 3 and 12, Ginter discloses the method of claim 2, but does not disclose enabling the local license server within the LAN to obtain the license to play the digital content. Fransdonk discloses wherein enabling the local license server within the LAN to obtain the license to play the selected digital media content comprises:

- receiving the key identification and license URI to access the license; (Figs. 4 and 7; 0073 and 0209)
- establishing a secure connection to a control point to obtain user credentials for acquiring the license; (Figs. 4 and 7; 0073 and 0209)

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- retrieving the user credentials; (Figs. 4 and 7; 0073 and 0209)
- establishing a secure connection to the license server providing the license, wherein the license server providing the license is identified using the license URI; (Figs. 4 and 7; 0073 and 0209)
- sending the license server the user credentials and the key identification to obtain the license; (Figs. 4 and 7; 0073 and 0209)
- and acquiring the license using the key identification. (Figs. 4 and 7; 0073 and 0209)

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to enable a license server to obtain a license in order to play digital media in order to enforce digital rights management.

19. Claims 4,5,13 and 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ginter (US 5892 900).

20. With respect to claims 4 and 13 , Ginter does not disclose the method of claim 3, wherein user credentials comprise a user name, a user address, a credit card number, a date of expiration for a credit card, and a type of license to be requested. On the

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other hand Ginter does disclose a user name and password. (fig 72A). However credentials can be anything associated with a user to gain access to something.

Therefore user name, a user address, a credit card number, a date of expiration for a credit card, and a type of license to be requested are all considered nonfunctional descriptive material, and Ginter is sufficient in terms of art. (In re Gulack, 217 USPQ 401 (Fed. Cir. 1983), In re Ngai, 70 USPQ2d (Fed. Cir. 2004), In re Lowry, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994); MPEP 2106.01 II

21. With respect to claim 5 and 14 , Ginter discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the LAN comprises a home network and the selected digital media item is to be played on the home network. (column 168 lines 10-25; Fig 35)

22. With respect to claims 26 and 27, Ginter does not specifically disclose wherein the license is received via a secure out of band transfer. On the other hand Ginter discloses a PERC (license) being encrypted(fig 67col 218 lines 1-11) and being sent However, receiving the license via a secure out of band transfer is not specifically disclosed by Ginter however Ginter mentions providing reports to outside participants and it would be a predictable result to provide any type of report/information securely to outside participants. (*Ex parte Smith*, 83 USPQ2d 1509 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 2007))

Conclusion

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23. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Kikuchi (6088733) teaches viewing live performances over the internet

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KHALIF MUHAMMAD whose telephone number is (571)270-5207. The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4/9.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hewitt Calvin can be reached on 571-272-6709. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KHALIF MUHAMMAD/
Examiner, Art Unit 3685

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/Calvin L Hewitt II/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3685